

## Preserve the Legislative Commission on Aging

February 13, 2013



The Governor's proposed 2013-2015 state budget calls for the elimination of the Commission on Aging and the consolidation of the other five legislative commissions (children, women, African Americans, Latino, Asian Pacific) into a single agency called the Commission on Citizen Advocacy. **The Commission on Aging is eliminated. It is NOT included in the consolidation.**



**We urge you not to target the Legislature's Commission on Aging for elimination and not to consolidate the other Legislative Commissions.**

### Here's why:

- **The Legislature's Commission on Aging (CoA) is the only non-partisan office in state government charged with studying, providing research, and speaking** on all matters concerning the ever-growing population of older adults in Connecticut. As a nonpartisan, public policy and research office of the CT General Assembly, the CoA serves as staff to the legislature, as a leader in the field of aging, and as a catalyst for data-driven policy change. Unlike Executive agencies, the CoA does not administer or provide direct services – and Executive Branch agencies do not provide research, legislative policy leadership, or speak on behalf of older people to the CGA.
- **Supporting the Legislative CoA prepares our state for a dramatically aging population.**
  - CT's aging population is growing by leaps and bounds (while the younger population is decreasing). From 2006-2030, the older adult population will increase by 64%. At the same time people are experiencing unprecedented longevity. These population shifts significantly impact nearly every facet of Connecticut government and society, including the state budget.
  - The CoA studies and monitors complex issues that affect over a million baby boomers, older adults and persons of all ages with disabilities. The CoA flags emerging issues and potential problems that would otherwise go unrecognized, and recommends concrete, fiscally responsible solutions to the CT General Assembly.
- **Supporting the Legislative CoA is in the best interest of its vastly growing and long-lived aging population and recognizes the multi-faceted aging related issues facing our state and municipalities.** Improving the quality of life for older adults in Connecticut is CoA's driving statutory charge.
- **Supporting the Legislature's CoA supports accountability within state government.** CoA is an extremely low-cost, cost-effective legislative entity, working across all branches of government. CoA provides necessary checks and balances critical to government.

Find us on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the State Capitol

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- **The Governor proposes to eliminate the Legislative Commission on Aging due to the establishment of an Executive Branch, Department on Aging. However, the Commission has a completely different role than the new Department on Aging.**
  - The CoA is a policy and research entity, the Department on Aging is an administrative entity that implements programs within the Executive Branch.
  - For the past twenty years the Legislative Commission on Aging and the Executive Branch State Unit on Aging (now called the State Dept. on Aging) have co-existed. This distinction is clearly understood – similarly to the legislative and executive branch offices that serve children.
  - Supporting the Legislature’s CoA affirms the distinct roles and authority of the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch of government.

### **About the Commission on Aging**

- **The Legislative Commission on Aging is an extraordinarily streamlined office of the Connecticut General Assembly:** We are an office with just 3 employees (out of appr. 48,000 total CT state employees) and volunteer (unpaid) members. The expert volunteers are from all across the state. CoA and other Legislative Commissions already have extremely modest budgets and share resources, space, equipment and expertise.
- **The Legislative Commission on Aging saves the state money:** Through our work and that of the other Legislative Commissions we have brought millions of dollars more to the state than our costs. We offer cost-saving solutions to over 13% of the state budget.
  - The CoA’s present budget of \$240,000 represents .00001% of the state budget.
  - For example: The people using Medicaid Long-term care services and supports represent 7% of the Medicaid population but expend 61% of its dollars (\$2.7 billion). Due in large part to our leadership, CT is making great strides in making significant policy, structural and cultural changes to improve quality of life, save state dollars and leverage millions of federal dollars.

### ***Here’s a snapshot of some of our work:***

**Legislatively Mandated Aging in Place Task Force (SA 12-6).** [See the report here.](#) CoA served as Administrative Staff and as a member.

**Legislatively Mandated Grandparents Visitation Rights Task Force (SA 11-12).** [See the report here.](#) CoA served as administrative staff.

**CoA’s Results Based Accountability Report and our Performance Report Card.** [See the report here.](#)

CoA developed a [Workforce Development strategic plan](#) and leads strategic workforce initiatives as chair of the workforce subcommittee of Money Follows the Person.

**Livable Communities Initiative:** Check out our website for more information about [this initiative](#) and our key partnerships.

**Co-Chair of [Money Follows the Person Steering Committee](#),** a federal demonstration grant yielding hundreds of millions of federal funds. Steering Committee provides oversight to the Department of Social Services on this initiative.

**Co-Chair of Legislatively Mandated [Long-Term Care Advisory Council](#)**

**Chair of [CT Elder Action Network \(CEAN\)](#):** leaders in the field of aging.